

## Italian Chief In Dodecanese Islands Resigns

### Recapture of Some Albanian Points Claimed by Rome

By the Associated Press.

ROME, Dec. 7.—Just short of a half-year of active participation in the European war, Italy has ordered imprisonment and crop confiscation for recalcitrant Italian farmers and "great impetus" in production of war materials while making a second sensational change in her high command.

Gen. Count Cesare Maria de Vecchi di Val Cismone, one of the original big four of Fascism with Benito Mussolini, resigned today his command in the strategic Dodecanese Islands and was succeeded by Gen. Pietro Badoglio.

Yesterday Chief of Staff Marshal Pietro Badoglio was replaced by Gen. Ugo Cavallero (and a broadcast today by the British Broadcasting Corp. quoted "neutral sources" at Rome for a report that Cavallero would confer shortly with the chief of the German high command, Gen. Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel).

### Yugoslavs to Co-operate.

With the Fascist high command reporting recapture of some Albanian positions by counterattacks against the Greeks (after a series of drastic reverses), Italian political circles derived great satisfaction from Fascist dispatches reporting a willingness by Yugoslavia to co-operate with the Rome-Berlin axis.

Foreign circles awaited some sign as to whether this "co-operation" would go so far as to permit Italian supplies or even troops to cross Yugoslavia to another sector of the Balkan war front, although indication of any such possibility was lacking in Italian quarters.

The Italian dispatches from Belgrade, Yugoslavia's capital, quoted Premier Dragisa Cvetkovich on the collaboration idea.

(The Associated Press dispatch from Belgrade yesterday said Cvetkovich declared Yugoslavia would co-operate in building a "new order" in Europe, but that "you can be sure she never will permit to come into the question our security, independence and freedom." Addressing the Belgrade municipal deputies, the speaker spoke of Yugoslavia's "policy of neutrality and friendship with her neighbors.")

### Co-operation Non-military.

Yugoslavia's co-operation with the axis generally was expected, however, to be economic and political rather than military, although some other countries which joined the axis—such as Hungary and Rumania—have invited technical and military assistance. Hungary's foreign minister, Count Stefan Cskay, will visit Belgrade next week.

"Italians regard with great satisfaction the desire expressed by Cvetkovich for co-operation with the axis within the framework of the new European order," correspondents were told.

"It means that work developing in the Balkans is fully understood and appreciated by Yugoslavia."

"It is all the more important because it was completely spontaneous."

(Authorized sources in Berlin, asked today whether there is any diplomatic activity centering on bringing Yugoslavia into the axis, said that relations of such nature and that constant contact is self-evident.)

### Greeks Press Strongly.

The high command said the Greeks continued to press strongly against the Italian left flank in the mountains west of Pogradetz, but described their operations in the Argirocastro sector on the other wing as limited to "local attacks."

The communiqué made no mention of Greek claims to have captured Porto Edda, southwest of Argirocastro.

The high command did not specify in what sector the Italians made the counter attacks reported to have regained ground from the Greeks.

The communiqué said only: "Our counter attacks have given us possession again of various positions. Alpine battalions, the 2d Regiment of Bersaglieri and the 26th Artillery of the army corps have particularly distinguished themselves."

Despite "decisively unfavorable weather conditions and strong anti-

(See ROME, Page A-3.)

## Five Die as Army Truck And School Bus Collide

By the Associated Press.

LANCASTER, Calif., Dec. 7.—Four soldiers and a 14-year-old boy were killed in a collision of an Army truck and a school bus near here last night. Twelve other children were injured.

Soldiers pitched pup tents over wreckage of the truck—with two bodies still inside and a third nearby—and stood guard pending an inquiry.

Howard McCaleb, 14, died today. Officers at the base headquarters listed the soldier victims as William G. Scarth, 19, March Field, the driver; Edwin O. Slater, 49, and Neel W. Urling, 50, both of Riverside, and Clifford L. Noyes, Crestline, Calif.

Albert Guthrie, 42, the school bus driver, and Mary Mansfield, 16, were described as critically hurt.

A hero of the tragedy was Robert Barnett, 15. Although he suffered a sprained back, he helped to safety two girls trapped beneath a seat in the overturned bus, then aided that one, Almeda McCaleb, had been nearly scalped. He folded the skin back in place, bound and held it for nearly an hour until a physician arrived.

## Abandonment of Argirocastro By Italians Is Reported

### Greeks Declared Striking at Enemy Fleeing Across Peaks Toward Three Key Towns

By the Associated Press.

ATHENS, Dec. 7.—Italian forces were reported today to have abandoned Argirocastro, leaving parts of the inland Albanian base in flames. Dispatches from the front said Greek troops, advancing on Argirocastro from several directions, had established contact preparatory to occupation.

The road between Porto Edda and Delvino and the road south of Argirocastro already are occupied by Greek forces, it was said. The high command announced yesterday that Porto Edda, 15 miles southwest of Argirocastro and the main sea gateway to supply the Italians, had fallen.

Dispatches from the front said at least 3,000 prisoners were captured yesterday, along with more than 100 howitzers.

The howitzer was one of the Italians' principal weapons in the attempt to invade Greece which the Greeks turned into a counter-invasion of Italian-held Albania.

Many prisoners, it was said, have been transported to Greek camps in the last four days by plane to facilitate their movement over the mountainous frontier region.

### Spanish Government Negotiates With U. S. On Loan for Food

### Hull Declines Comment On Report Credit Depends On Continued Neutrality

By the Associated Press.

Secretary of State Hull said today that diplomatic negotiations were under way with the Spanish government involving the possible extension of credits for foodstuffs. No agreement has been reached.

(The Associated Press reported on November 14 that Spain had requested a loan of credits of \$100,000,000 with which to feed and rehabilitate the nation, but that action on the request was expected to await clarification of Spain's position in the European war.)

In reply to questions based on a report from Lisbon that Alexander Weddell, American Ambassador to Madrid, had presented an offer to provide credits for foodstuffs and raw materials on the understanding that Spain would stay out of the war, Mr. Hull confined himself to the statement that discussions were under way.

The Lisbon report said the United States was expected to provide credits for purchases of wheat, frozen meat, gasoline, cotton and rubber in this country in amounts between \$100,000,000 and \$250,000,000 on the understanding that none of the goods would be transhipped to Germany.

The report added that while Mr. Weddell had not been able to obtain a public declaration that Spain would not enter the war, a compromise would be reached by which Spain would send notes to the United States and Great Britain saying that it was not foreseen that Spain would enter the conflict.

## U. S. Will Construct Four Huge Aircraft Assembly Plants

### Auto Factories to Make Parts; 40,000 Planes A Year by 1942 Seen

By the Associated Press.

Prospective use of automobile factories in the manufacture of military aircraft today boosted to 40,000 planes a year the production rate which defense officials expect to attain sometime in 1942.

Four huge plants to assemble into finished units airplane parts made in motor car factories are to be constructed west of the Mississippi River, under plans of the War Department and Defense Commission. Sites for two with a combined capacity of 2,400 medium two-motor bombers a year were announced yesterday. One will be built at Kansas City, Mo., and the other at Omaha, Neb.

The other two plants planned, it was reported, will turn out four-motor bombers at the rate of 1,200 a year. The locations of these two were not announced but it was understood that one site at Tulsa, Okla., was under consideration.

Officials estimated that 15 months would be required to get the new assembly factories into mass production. Their output, it was explained, will be in addition to that of regular airplane factories, expanding now toward a production rate of 36,000 planes a year by early 1942.

The assembly plant was reported authoritatively to represent a revision of an earlier proposal to have motor car manufacturers turn out parts for 12,000 bombers.

That figure was used by William S. Knudsen, production chief of the Defense Commission, when he met with automobile manufacturers at Detroit in October. Under the present program more than three years would be required to produce 12,000 bombers.

Each to Employ 10,000.

Construction details of the Kansas City and Omaha assembly plants are still under negotiation but preliminary estimates placed the cost of each at \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000. Each will employ 10,000 to 12,000 persons.

These two and the two for which sites are yet to be announced are expected to turn out planes costing \$1,000,000 a year at present prices of \$200,000 for a two-motor bomber and \$400,000 for each of the four-motor bombers.

The Kansas City plant will be operated by North American Aviation Corp. of California and the Omaha plant by the Martin Co. of Baltimore.

### McDonald B. & O. Director

By the Associated Press.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 7.—Daniel Willard, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad president, today announced election of Stewart McDonald, deputy Federal loan administrator, to the board of directors.

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## U. S. Steps to Aid Greece Assured By Roosevelt

### Help Promised in Exchange of Messages With King

By GARNETT D. HORNER.

The United States is taking steps to extend "aid to Greece, which is defending itself so valiantly," President Roosevelt assured King George II of Greece in an exchange of messages made public today.

The Greek King informed Mr. Roosevelt in a message dated December 3 that "all moral and material assistance will strengthen the heroic Greek Army and will bring it nearer to victory" in its fight "for the principles of justice, truth and liberty."

In his reply Thursday, President Roosevelt remarked that "the free peoples are deeply impressed by the courage and steadfastness of the Greek nation," adding:

"As your majesty knows, it is the settled policy of the United States Government to extend aid to those governments and peoples who defend themselves against aggression. I assure your majesty that steps are being taken to extend such aid to Greece, which is defending itself so valiantly."

### Negotiates for Purchases.

Immediately after Italy started its attempted invasion of Greece, the Greek government began negotiations through its Legation here and the American Legation in Athens for the purchase of vital military equipment in the United States.

Officials here announced that the Greek appeals for aid were receiving sympathetic and favorable consideration, with further negotiations centering primarily about the mechanics of how Greece might secure prompt delivery of American warplanes and other supplies.

It was disclosed last week that an agreement had been reached in principle to the effect that Greece would have full opportunity to purchase military equipment here, with deliveries depending on saving of priorities by either this Government or Great Britain. Airplane factories in particular are booked to capacity with American and British government orders.

It is understood that the United States Army and Navy are reluctant to release for shipment abroad any more of American military production than involved in the 50-50 arrangement with the British, so that deliveries to Greece appeared to depend on British willingness to waive priority on some of their orders.

No Comment on Planes.

There was no official comment immediately on whether Mr. Roosevelt's message to the Greek King might indicate that some of the planes and other equipment ordered by this Government would be allowed to go to Greece.

The exchange of messages between King George II and the President was made public at the State Department. Delivered through the Greek Legation here, the message from King George II read:

"In this hour in which my country is engaged in a hard and unequal struggle, forced upon it by an enemy whose actions are motivated by cruelty and violence, I am deeply moved by the warm sympathy and the keen interest manifested by the great Nation whose destinies you guide."

"The noble American people have often in the past rendered assistance to my country in all critical moments of its history, and the recent organization of the Greek War Relief Association is further proof that philhellenism continues to inspire Americans of today in their lofty aims."

"Guardians across the seas of the ideals for which throughout the centuries Greeks have lived and died, Americans today are aware that the Greek nation is again fighting for the principles of justice, truth and liberty."

(See GREEK AID, Page A-2.)

## Army Will Give Extended Leave As Yule Gift

As a Christmas gift from Uncle Sam to the men in arms the War Department today ordered suspension of military training from noon December 21 to reveille January 2.

The extended holiday applies to those who entered the service prior to November 1. Training for those recruited or drafted since November 1 will be suspended from noon December 21 to reveille December 26 and from noon December 31 to reveille January 2.

Railroads have authorized a special furlough fare of 1 cent a mile for military personnel traveling in uniform at their own expense while on Christmas and New Year leave. Many thousands are expected to take advantage of the reduced rates to return home.

To further accommodate the new men of the Army the number of enlisted men allowed to go on furlough from any command has been increased to 15 per cent of its present strength. This percentage is understood to apply to ordinary furloughs granted from time to time.

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German Raiders Start Numerous Fires in New Bristol Attack

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—Bristol, one of Britain's chief west coast ports and the gateway through which many of her sea-borne war supplies have been flowing into the industrial Midlands, bore the brunt of German bombing attacks during the night, the government reported today.

Numerous fires were set by the raiders and a hospital and many other buildings were damaged, a communiqué said. A number of persons were reported killed and injured.

B. A. F. bombers shot down two axis bombers in engagements today, it was learned officially.

Manchester University and the College of Technology were among the buildings hit by Nazi raiders in Northwest England last night, it was disclosed today.



If Julius Could See Him Now!

## Boy, 10, Gives Up His Trail To Aid Christmas Fund

### Every Gift Now Rings a Bell; Ice Skaters to Help Campaign

The following letter, accompanied by a \$5 bill, arrived yesterday at The Star's Christmas House:

"To The Star Christmas fund—

"My name is Stanley Greenberg. I attend Barnard School and live at 218 Emerson street N.W. and am 10. I earned \$1.50 selling Christmas cards and saved \$3.50 so I can buy a train for Christmas."

"But after reading your pleas, for poor families and their children so they will have something for Christmas and seen the picture in your Wednesday Star, I decided to mail my \$5 to your Christmas fund and if you will write and tell me how I may donate a Christmas basket, I will get my dad to do it."

from STANLEY GREENBERG.  
Toy Mattinee Planned.

It is youngsters like this—plus the groupings—who are preparing unexpected Christmas joy for thousands of families now facing only bleakness. You, too, may help by sending your contribution to Christmas House, in care of The Star. If you bring it to the House, at Eleventh street and Pennsylvania avenue N.W., you are invited to be heard on the air at any of the WMAL broadcast periods.

Chimes of a great iron bell are resounding around Christmas House now as gifts stream in. Each contributor is asked to haul on the bell cord as he puts his gift into Santa's pouch.

One who rang it on the WMAL

(See CHRISTMAS, Page A-3.)

## Christmas House Broadcasts

If you're in the vicinity of Christmas House, at Eleventh street and Pennsylvania avenue N.W., at any of the WMAL broadcasting periods, stop by to make a contribution and take part. Representatives of organizations can arrange to appear on one of the broadcasts by calling National 5000 and asking for Christmas House.

Tonight  
8:30 to 8:45 P.M.

Tomorrow  
No broadcasts. Christmas House closed till 8:30 a.m. Monday. Come Monday or mail your gift.

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### Number of Casualties Reported, With Many Buildings Damaged

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## Trainload of Wounded French Reach Toulouse

By the Associated Press.

VICHY, France, Dec. 7.—A hospital train bringing home sick and wounded prisoners of war arrived at Toulouse yesterday from German-occupied France.

A trainload of 600 other wounded French soldiers being repatriated from internment in Switzerland was expected today at Clermont-Ferrand.

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German Raiders Start Numerous Fires in New Bristol Attack

## Morgenthau Awaits British 'Balance Sheet'

### Timing of Any Loan Proposals May Be Based on Report

By the Associated Press.

A series of blunt questions put by Secretary Morgenthau yesterday to Secretary Phillips, Undersecretary of the British Treasury, to work at the British Embassy today on a detailed accounting of his country's assets for waging war with Germany.

On the answers, which Sir Frederick is expected to deliver to the United States Treasury chief Monday, may depend the form and timing of any proposals for the United States to bulwark Britain's fight with American dollars.

With no officials here on record with commitments for extension of loans or other financial aid to the British, it was generally accepted in both administrative and congressional circles that consideration of such assistance was the primary purpose of Sir Frederick's visit.

### Conference Devoted to Facts.

His opening conference with Mr. Morgenthau yesterday was devoted to facts and devoid of policy considerations, he reported afterward.

Informed officials said the Treasury Secretary asked him for the most specific types of information about what the British still have in the way of assets after buying several hundred million dollars' worth of airplanes, tanks and other war supplies.

Sir Frederick, himself, said he was presenting "a balance sheet on the state of our resources and the cost of supplies in the United States."

### Congressional Move Awaited.

In some quarters it was believed that if this "balance sheet" showed Britain to be in early need of financial aid, strong efforts would be made in the opening months of the new Congress to win acceptance of some specific proposals.

The nature of the proposal, it was believed, might also be determined by the evidence Sir Frederick presents.

Both Mr. Morgenthau and Jesse Jones, Federal loan administrator, have described Britain as "good risk" for loans, but in Congress there has been talk of making an outright grant of funds in order to avoid such complications as grew out of World War loans to the Allied powers.

## Thai Attack Reported On 2 Indo-China Cities

By the Associated Press.

HANOI, French Indo-China, Dec. 7.—The government said today that two Indo-China border cities were machine-gunned by Thais (Siamese) yesterday.

A low-flying Thai plane sprayed the water front of Vientiane, important border city with machine-gun bullets, and Poipet was fired upon from across the Mekong River, the government said. No casualties were reported.

The French did not retaliate, the government added. It said "many hundreds" of Communists had been arrested while in a drive against subversive elements in Indo-China.

## CHUNGKING, China, Dec. 7 (AP).

A dispatch from Kunning to the Chungking newspaper Ta Kung Pao said today the Japanese were reported to have made new major demands to the government of French Indo-China.

The dispatch declared it was learned authoritatively that these demands included immediate Japanese representation in all departments of the Indo-Chinese government and a voice for the Japanese Army in the Indo-Chinese police system.

The Colonial government was reported to have forwarded the demands to the French government at Vichy.

## Two Naval Seaplanes Take Mail to Roosevelt

By the Associated Press.

ABOARD THE U. S. S. MAYRANT AT SEA, Dec. 7 (by radio).—Bearing pouches of White House mail, two Navy seaplanes kept a rendezvous with President Roosevelt yesterday morning near a Caribbean island.

(This dispatch, received in New York at 1:55 a.m. today, was the first word from the presidential party touring naval bases in the Caribbean Sea since the President departed from Kingston, Jamaica, Thursday night aboard the cruiser Tuscaloosa.)

While the Tuscaloosa, the destroyer Trippe and this destroyer lay have to at 1 a.m. the mail was transferred in a whale boat.

The rudder of one plane was damaged slightly during the operation performed in a choppy sea.

The rudder was repaired and the Tuscaloosa and her escorts stood by until both planes took off on their return flight to San Juan, P. R.

The contact with the planes was made after an all-night run from Jamaica. Despite the somewhat rough sea, the weather continued sunny and warm.

Secrecy still shrouded the Tuscaloosa's next destination.

## 64,000 More at Work In Pennsylvania

By the Associated Press.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 7.—Pennsylvania industry took on 64,000 additional workers during October, the Department of Labor and Industry reports, disclosing that defense contracts for that month totaled \$102,000,000.

Leading the trend were metals wholesale and retail houses.

## \$10.00 Reward

To protect The Star Carrier Service from newspaper thieves, The Evening Star offers a reward of \$10.00 for the arrest and conviction of any person or persons stealing The Star Newspaper from carrier packs at the point of delivery, or from doorways or apartments after delivery. Any one detecting newspaper thieves should notify the police immediately.

## The Evening Star